29.   (Once Amended) The method of Claim 22 wherein:

the operation is specified in a query that corresponds to a hierarchy of operations; and

the step of assigning said at least one entity a second work partition includes

determining whether there are any unassigned work partitions from a first

level in the hierarchy to which said first work partition belonged; and

if there are no unassigned work partitions from the first level in the hierarchy,

then selecting said second work partition from a level in said hierarchy

that is two levels above said first level in said hierarchy.

65.   (Once Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 58 wherein:

the operation is specified in a query that corresponds to a hierarchy of operations; and

the step of assigning said at least one entity a second work partition includes

determining whether there are any unassigned work partitions from a first

level in the hierarchy to which said first work partition belonged; and

if there are no unassigned work partitions from the first level in the hierarchy,

then selecting said second work partition from a level in said hierarchy

that is two levels above said first level in said hierarchy.

REMARKS

The amendment made herein is intended to improve the readability and overall clarity

of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

-2-